

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claim 21 has been added. Claims 1, 2, 15, and 16 are independent claims.

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed related application.

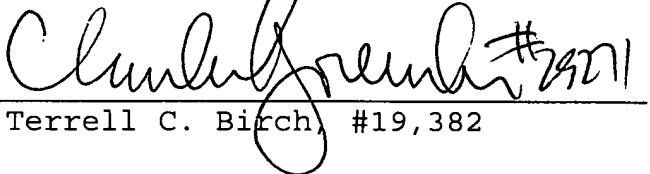
The claims have been amended to remove improper multiple dependencies and to place them in better form for U.S. practice.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (Reg. No. 40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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